

## [Pickin Off Peanut]

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### PICKIN OFF PEANUT

“Dat's how Ella Bell cot newmonia. Pickin peanut en she go tuh sleep en I lay huh on the peanuts shock—th' stack— on th' vine done bin pick off. My sweater bin throw ober huh. Th' dampness come up thru th' vine. Two uh tree bushel I'd pick off in uh day. Ef I'd go early en set rite deah on sing en pick, I'd get way ober uh peck toll. Mah toll uh peanut on mah back, I'd be goin long home pass Miss Mandy house. Yuh couldn't pass Miss Mandy. Allus hab tuh talk. Us'ud ax how she wuz gettin on. “Gittin on pretty tuf, Lillie. But maw tol me when I marry Derrick I go necked en perish. But I marry Derrick, en I likened tuh perish en I didn't perish en I likened tuh wauk necked en I didn't wauk necked. I'd tek mah stockin

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en cut off duh foots en mek stockin fuh duh chillun. See how I stand! I'm bout tuh be bare-footed, but I'm not bare-footed. Tek th' flour en th' meal sack. Mek chemeses."

"En Sue Belle say, "Lill, who' that? Is she bright?"

"En I say, "Oh, yass! Thet Miss Tubbeville dautuh."

"She'd say, 'Collard en tater fuh dinner. Thank Gawd fuh that! Derrick went een th' crick las nite en got uh few leetle fishes. Sold some. Got uh leetle grits en coffee. Had no sugar, but got th' coffee. Boy gone. Onliest boy. Paw took'em small. Thought he'd starve heah home." Those chillum come thru th' harrars, (horrors or harrows) when they small. Derrick too triflin tuh plant th' cleared land roun him. Plant uh tater patch en let th' grass eat hit up! She would have uh row uv collard. Ma en pa out widder cause she marry Derrick. I wouldn't let that man owe me no way enn th' worrel. Haddest pay-master they is. Wouldn't pay so det cept that det us all got tuh pay—deth." (death).

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"She say, "Well Lillie, mah hens layin' now. Kin let yuh hab egg off-en-on."

"Pickin off peanut, we'd sing. Grand-maw would pitch 'By-en-by, When Th' Morning Come !" .

(Lillie Knox, 35, age—colored).

Murrell's Inlet, S. C.